

**Steve Loney**  
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January 3, 2002

Judge Kollar Kotelly  
c/o Renata Hesse, Trial Attorney  
Antitrust Division  
U.S. Department of Justice  
601 D Street, NW, Suite 1200  
Washington, DC 20530

Dear Judge Kotelly:

For over a year now our country has been facing serious economic problems. The stock market is weak, the economy is waning, and Americans are losing jobs. There is not one definitive reason why we are facing these economic hard times and our recovery is dependent upon several factors. It is important that we make smart decisions about everything that may influence our economy.

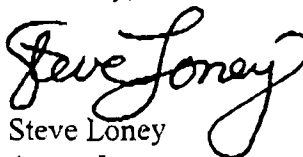
One bright spot on the economic horizon is the proposed settlement between the United States and Microsoft. This proposal is a fair settlement for all involved and will provide benefit to our economy.

While some may argue this settlement is not a good one, a fair review of its provisions demonstrates that it strikes a good compromise. Among other things, Microsoft will be required to share its intellectual property and an independent committee will be established to ensure that Microsoft is following the rules of the agreement.

For over twenty years Microsoft has been a leader of our national economy and its growth. When the government threatened to assert new and excessive regulations on this strong corporation its impact was felt throughout the economy. By allowing this settlement to take place the case will come to a fair conclusion and the best interests of our country will be served.

Thank you for your time.

Sincerely,

  
Steve Loney  
Ames, Iowa